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Claims

A method for obtaining a postage verification code (200), the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request (210) for a postage 5 verification code from a communication device (120) to a Postal server (110); and

receiving said request (220) at said Postal server (110);

the method characterised by the steps of: 10

said communication device (120).

generating (230) a postage verification code in response to said request;

transmitting (240) a postage verification code to said communication device (120), such that a charge associated with said postage verification code is attributed to said communication device (120); and receiving (250) said postage verification code at

- The method for obtaining a postage verification 20 2. code (200) according to Claim 1, wherein said code comprises a string of alphanumeric characters.
- The method for obtaining a postage verification 3. code (200) according to Claim 1, wherein said request 25 and/or said postage verification code are transmitted wirelessly between said Postal server (110) and a wireless communication device (120), the method further characterised by the steps of:

providing said postage verification code to a 30 user of said wireless communication device; and applying (260) said postage verification code on an item for posting.

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- 4. The method for wirelessly obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a request (210) includes transmitting information relating to a type of postage required by a user of said communication device.
- 5. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 4, wherein said information relating to a type of postage includes one or more of the following:
 - (i) A price of postage required;
 - (ii) A weight of said item to be posted;
 - (iii) A class of postage;
- 15 (iv) An indication of a destination for said item to be posted.
- 6. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 4, wherein the step of transmitting a request (210) includes transmitting a request to an address that corresponds to said type of postage.
- 7. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a request (210) includes transmitting information identifying a user of said communication device.
- 30 8. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 7, wherein said information identifying a user of said communication device includes one or more of the following:



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- (i) A name of the user;
- (ii) A number associated with a wireless communication device of the user;
- (iii) An International Mobile Subscriber
 5 Identification (IMSI) number of the Subscriber Identity
 Module (SIM) of the user; or
 - (iv) An International Mobile Equipment Identification (IMEI) number of the wireless communication device.

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- 9. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 1, wherein the postage verification code is generated based on information contained in the request, for example a destination post/zip code.
- 10. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 2, the method further characterised by the step of:
- verifying said postage verification code applied to said item at a sorting office.
 - 11. The method for obtaining a postage verification code according to Claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting a wireless request includes:

transmitting a wireless request using a GSM unstructured supplementary service data message; or

transmitting a wireless request using a GSM short message service message; or

- 30 accessing a website hosted by the postal server.
 - 12. A wireless communication device (120) adapted to perform method steps of Claim 1.



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- 13. The wireless communication device (120) according to Claim 12, wherein the wireless communication device is one of a cellular phone, a portable or mobile radio, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, a wirelessly networked PC.
- 14. A Postal server (110) adapted to perform the method steps of Claim 1.
- 15. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling one or more processors to carry out the method of Claim 1.
- 15 16. A postal server (110) characterised by:

 an interface port (320), through which the postal
 server is capable of sending and receiving postage
 verification code messages or requests;
- verification code from a communication device (120); and an encoding software application (350) to generate and send a postage verification code to said communication device (120), in response to said request, such that a charge associated with said postage verification code is attributed to said communication device (120).
- 17. The postal server (110) according to Claim 16, wherein the encoding software application (350) generates a postage verification code comprising a string of alphanumeric characters.

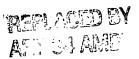


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- 18. The postal server (110) according to Claim 16, wherein the encoding software application (350) generates a postage verification code based on a type of postage requested, for example, based on information relating to one or more of the following:
 - (i) A price of postage required;
 - (ii) A weight of said item to be posted;
 - (iii) A class of postage;
- (iv) An indication of a destination for said item
 10 to be posted;
 - (v) A destination postcode.
- 19. The postal server (110) according to Claim 16, wherein the encoding software application (350) generates a postage verification code based on information identifying a user of a wireless communication device (120) or a wireless communication device making said request, for example, based on information relating to one or more of the following:
- 20 (i) A name of the user;
 - (ii) A mobile telephone number of the user;
 - (iii) An International Mobile Subscriber
 Identification (IMSI) number of the Subscriber Identity
 Module (SIM) of the user; or
- 25 (iv) An International Mobile Equipment Identification (IMEI) number of the wireless communication device.
- 20. The postal server (110) according to Claim 16,
 30 the postal server (110) further comprising a database,
 operably coupled to said encoding software application
 (350) for maintaining a record of the generated postage
 verification code, such that the record can be used to





validate postage of an item bearing the postage verification code.

- 21. A Postal Sorting machine adapted to verify said postage verification code applied to an item in accordance with the method steps of Claim 1.
- 22. A Postal Sorting machine adapted to verify said postage verification code applied to an item in10 accordance with the postal server (110) of Claim 16.